



Clinical Congress News

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The American College of Surgeons is dedicated to improving the care of the surgical patient and to safeguarding standards of care in an optimal and ethical practice environment.

Presidential Address

Dr. Carrico's spirit lives on in College's efforts to train surgeons in new technology

Advancements in technology have dramatically changed the practice of surgery, and as new techniques emerge, surgeons must be trained in their safe and effective use, Richard R. Sabo, MD, FACS, the newly installed President of the College, said in his Presidential Address last night during the Convocation ceremony. Dr. Sabo noted that one surgeon who first recognized the potential consequences of the rapid introduction of new surgical technology was C. James Carrico, MD, FACS.

"I miss him. The College misses him. The whole world of surgery will miss him," Dr. Sabo said in reference to Dr. Carrico, who served as the College's President-Elect from October 2001 until his death on July 25. "I wish he were here to give this address, share his wisdom, and lead the College during the coming year." Throughout his address to the Initiates, Dr. Sabo emphasized the importance of carrying out Dr. Carrico's

legacy as "a skilled and caring surgeon, a passionate educator, a distinguished scholar, and a true gentleman."

Dr. Sabo noted that among Dr. Carrico's many contributions to the College was the establishment of the Committee on Emerging Surgical Technology and Education (CESTE). The College created CESTE to respond to growing concerns about the difficult transition from open to laparoscopic cholecystectomy. These types of challenges will likely become more pervasive over the coming years, he added.

CESTE has set the groundwork for the College's efforts to help surgeons apply new technology more effectively. From 1993 to 2000, the committee developed five official position papers: the Statement on Laparoscopic and Thoracoscopic Procedures, the Statement on Emerging Surgical Techniques and the Evaluation of Credentials, the Statement on Issues to be Considered before New Surgical Technology Is Applied to the Care of

Patients, Approval of Courses in New Skills, and Verification by the American College of Surgeons for the Use of Emerging Technologies.

"These statements provide an extremely helpful guide for surgeons introducing new technology into practice. However, the statements are less helpful in determining which procedures to select or when to select them," Dr. Sabo said.

It is important for surgeons to attain this level of information and understanding. "There is enormous pressure on surgeons to provide the latest technology and to appear to be on the cutting edge," Dr. Sabo said. "Patients are constantly bombarded with information about new techniques in the lay press—information that quite often is selected for its sensationalism more than its accuracy." Because they have access to so much information, or misinformation, patients "want the least invasive procedure available, and they expect a good outcome," he added.

Surgeons who cannot provide the latest services are likely to lose patients.

But how do surgeons decide whether they should learn and offer their patients a new procedure? Dr. Sabo suggested that more research is needed that will lead to evidence supporting the application of a new technique and that the College can do much to provide surgeons with the necessary guidance.

McMaster's University in Alberta, ON, introduced a new philosophy of medical practice, which "emphasized that each clinical decision should be based on knowledge and understanding of the medical literature," Dr. Sabo said. "This philosophy became known as evidence-based medicine."

Dr. Sabo noted that Jonathan Meakins, MD, FACS, Vice-Chair of the Board of Regents and current Chair of CESTE, has written extensively on changes in technology and the usefulness of evidence-based medicine. Dr.

(continued on page 2)

Dr. Organ named ACS President-Elect

Claude H. Organ, Jr., MD, FACS, FCM (S Afr), FRACS, FRCS, of Oakland, CA, was named ACS President-Elect during the Annual Meeting of Fellows and Initiates, which took place yesterday afternoon in Moscone Center.

Dr. Organ is a professor in the department of surgery at the University of California, San Francisco-East Bay, and chair, University of California, San Francisco-East Bay, Surgical Residency Program, Oakland, CA.

Throughout his notable career, Dr. Organ has been acknowledged as a surgical leader who is dedicated to his patients, to the community, and to advancing the science and skills of the surgical profession.

Since becoming a Fellow of the College in 1961, Dr. Organ has served the organization in numerous capacities. He has been a member of the Commission on Cancer since 1979, a member of the College's International Relations Committee since 1995, and Vice-Chair of the Committee on Motion Pictures (1977-1978). A renowned surgical educator, Dr. Organ has presented the College's Opening Ceremony Lecture on two occasions—in 1987 and 1995. At the local level, he has served as

a member of the Credentials Committee of the Nebraska and Oklahoma Chapters, and as a member of the Executive Committee of the Northern California Chapter.

In 1999 the Board of Regents named him the recipient of the College's highest honor—the Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Organ was the College's Second Vice-President from 2001 to 2002.

A 1952 graduate of Creighton University School of Medicine, Omaha, NE, Dr. Organ served in the U.S. Naval Reserves as Lieutenant Commander MC and as director of dependant surgery services at the U.S. Naval Hospital at Camp Pendleton, CA, from 1957 to 1959.

He was instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, professor, and chairman in the department of surgery at Creighton University from 1960 to 1982. From 1982 to 1988, he was professor of surgery at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. From 1988 to 2001, Dr. Organ was professor in the department of surgery and chair of the surgical residency program at the University of California, Davis-East Bay.

Dr. Organ has held many leadership positions in organized surgery. He served as chairman of the American

Board of Surgery (1984-1986); president of the Southwestern Surgical Congress (1984-1985); and president of the Society of Black Academic Surgeons (1995-1996). He has also served as a member of the Residency Review Committee for Surgery and the National Board of Medical Examiners Surgery Test Committee.

In addition, Dr. Organ has served as the editor of *Archives of Surgery* and as a member of the editorial boards of a number of other journals, including the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Surgery*, *Asian Journal of Surgery*, *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, *Oncology Times*, and *The Pharos*. He has presented numerous lectures on a variety of topics and has had a lecture created in his name—the Annual Claude H. Organ, Jr. Lecture of the Southwestern Surgical Congress.

The author of over 250 scientific articles and book chapters, his professional interests are in general and endocrine surgery. He is the author or co-author of five books, including the two-volume set, *A Century of Black Surgeons: The U.S.A. Experience* (1987), and *Abdominal Access in Open and Laparoscopic Surgery* (1996).

Furthermore, Dr. Organ has made



Dr. Organ

admirable contributions outside of organized surgery to many civic and educational institutions, including serving on the board of directors of Boystown, Inc., serving as president of Urban Housing Foundation, and serving as a trustee for Meharry Medical College and Howard University.

In other actions taken yesterday, the

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F. William Blaisdell receives Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award—the highest honor awarded by the American College of Surgeons—was presented to F. William Blaisdell, MD, FACS, of Sacramento, CA, yesterday afternoon during the College's Annual Meeting of the Fellows and Initiates.

In presenting the Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Blaisdell, the Board of Regents highly commended him for being an eminent scholar, leader, clinical surgeon, and mentor—especially in the disciplines of general surgery, cardiovascular surgery, trauma care, critical care medicine, and surgical education; recognized his original contributions to advancement in the care of patients with peripheral vascular disease, shock, thromboembolism, and adult respiratory distress syndrome; expressed appreciation for his contributions to the College through his many committee and chapter involvements; and acknowledged him for his work in trauma and his contributions to academic departments and other surgical organizations.

Since becoming a Fellow of the College in 1962, Dr. Blaisdell has served the College in numerous capacities. He served as Secretary-Treasurer (1965-1968), Councilor (1966-1970), and President (1968-1969) of the College's Northern California Chapter. Dr. Blaisdell was active on the College's Committee on Trauma; he was Chair of

the Northern California Committee on Trauma (1972-1979), and a member of the national Committee on Trauma (1974-1984). In addition, he was Chair of the College's Committee on Applicants (1976-1978), a member of the College's Credentials Committee (1970-1978), and a member of the Graduate Medical Education Committee (1977-1979). A renowned surgical educator, Dr. Blaisdell served as lecturer for the Scudder Oration on Trauma at the ACS Clinical Congress in 1983. In 1999, Dr. Blaisdell was presented with the ACS Surgeon's Award for Service to Safety.

A 1952 graduate of Stanford University's School of Medicine, Stanford, CA, Dr. Blaisdell served as a medical officer in the U.S. Naval Reserves, reaching the rank of Lieutenant (1952-1954). Today, he serves as professor and chair emeritus of the department of surgery at the University of California, Davis, School of Medicine; associate dean for East Bay Affairs; and chief of surgery at the VA Northern California Health Care System.

Dr. Blaisdell has been active in the San Francisco area medical community, including having served as chief of surgery at San Francisco VA Hospital (1960-1966) and chief of surgery at San Francisco General Hospital (1966-1978). Furthermore, while serving as chair of the department of surgery at the University of California, Davis, Dr.

Blaisdell organized the East Bay Surgical Program, which has been so ably run by Claude H. Organ, Jr., MD, FACS.

Dr. Blaisdell has held many leadership positions in organized surgery. He served as President of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (1990-1991); president of the Northern California Vascular Society (1974); president of the Bay Area Vascular Society (1974-1980); president of the Society for Vascular Surgery (1978-1979); president of the Pacific Coast Surgical Association (1987); president of the Michael F. DeBakey International Surgical Society (1998-2000); and president of the Uniformed Services University Health Sciences Surgical Associates (2000-2001). He also served as a member of the Residency Review Committee for Surgery and as a member of the American Board of Surgery. During his tenure on the American Board of Surgery, Dr. Blaisdell organized the first in-training examination and the first examination for certification in vascular surgery and critical care medicine.

In addition, Dr. Blaisdell has served as associate editor of *Archives of Surgery* and the *Journal of Trauma* and as a member of the editorial boards of several journals, including the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the *Journal of Clinical Surgery*, and the *Journal of Vascular Surgery*.



Dr. Blaisdell

Dr. Blaisdell also has made admirable contributions to clinical research and, as such, has received numerous grants from the National Institutes of Health to facilitate research of cerebrovascular disease, respiratory distress syndrome, intravascular coagulation, fibrinogen metabolism, and trauma. Additionally, his work in trauma led to his designation as recipient of the 1999 National Safety Council Award.

The College's Board of Regents is pleased to recognize Dr. Blaisdell's outstanding contributions by naming him the 2002 recipient of its highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award.

PRESIDENT, from page 1

Meakins summarizes the five steps in the practice of evidence-based medicine as: (1) define the question or problem; (2) search for the evidence; (3) critically appraise the literature; (4) apply the results; and (5) audit the outcome.

The College is making evidence-based medicine a core activity. For example, in this month's issue of the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons* a new section devoted to the topic has been introduced, Dr. Sabo said. Additionally, the College intends to use its electronic communications resources, such as *ACS NewsScope*, to quickly disseminate information on significant new critical reviews and practice guidelines.

Another related development at the College is a project called the American College of Surgeons Safety and Efficacy of Innovative Procedures and Technology in Surgery. This program is being supervised by Alden Harken, MD, FACS, ACS Regent and Interim Director of the Division of Research and Optimal Patient Care. It uses recently developed data-review strategies and creates additional categories that include a place for surgical procedures that may be recommended but have not yet attained standard-of-care status.

"The College needs to develop mechanisms to verify that the courses in new

technology meet these standards," Dr. Sabo added. Further, the College should identify surgeons who can train other surgeons in the use of new technology. "Many surgeons have difficulty finding suitable proctors," he said. "The College needs to facilitate this necessary link by encouraging experienced surgeons to offer their services in assisting surgeons in locating proctors."

Additionally, "the College needs to develop new ways to teach surgeons by using skill laboratories, surgical simulators, and, eventually, distance-learning techniques using high-speed Internet communications," Dr. Sabo said.

He concluded his address to the Initiates by noting that "Dr. Carrico left us all with a legacy both by example and through the work of CESTE. Ultimately, the responsibility of wisely incorporating new technology into your daily practice lies in the principle you have sworn to uphold this evening and will depend on your integrity, your commitment to lifelong learning, your professionalism, and your desire to put the welfare of your patients above all other considerations."

The complete text of Dr. Sabo's Presidential Address will appear in the December issue of the *ACS Bulletin*, along with other Clinical Congress highlights.

DR. ORGAN, from page 1

Fellows named Anna M. Ledgerwood, MD, FACS, Detroit, MI, as First Vice-President-Elect, and Murray F. Brennan, MD, FACS, New York, NY, as Second Vice-President-Elect.

Dr. Ledgerwood is a general surgeon and professor of surgery, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. A Fellow since 1975, Dr. Ledgerwood served on the Committee on Trauma (1980-1990), the Nominating Committee of the Board of Governors (1998-2000), and the Committee on Women's Issues (2001-present). She presented the 1996

Scudder Oration on Trauma.

Dr. Brennan is a general surgeon and chairman, department of surgery, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY. A Fellow since 1977, he has served as a member of the Commission on Cancer since 1989 (Executive Committee, 1990-1995), a member of the Fellows Leadership Society since 1995, and as Vice-Chair of the International Relations Committee since 1997. Dr. Brennan was the recipient of the 2000 ACS Distinguished Service Award.



Dr. Ledgerwood

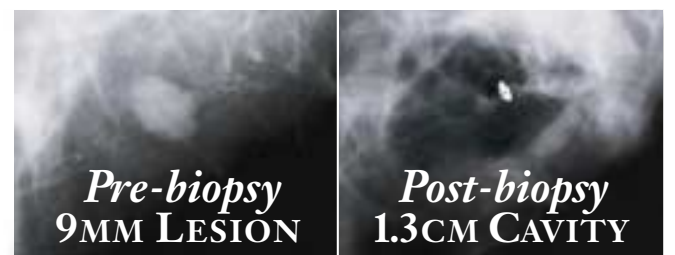


Dr. Brennan

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ACS Regents and Governors named

The ACS Board of Governors has elected Charles D. Mabry, MD, FACS, Robin S. McLeod, MD, FACS, and Carlos A. Pellegrini, MD, FACS, Regents of the College.

Dr. Mabry is a general surgeon in private practice in Pine Bluff, AR. He is also associate clinical professor of surgery, department of surgery, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock. He has served as President of the Arkansas State Chapter and as a member of the Committee on Young Surgeons (1989-1995) and has been a member of the General Surgery Coding and Reimbursement Committee since its inception. Dr. Mabry also served on the Regents' Communications Committee (1991-1995) and has been an ACS representative to the American Medical Association (AMA) Relative Value Update Committee for several years. He is currently serving on the AMA Concurrent Coding Initiative Committee. Dr. Mabry is an Editorial Advisor for the *ACS Bulletin*. He has been a Fellow since 1984 and will serve an initial three-year term as Regent.

Dr. McLeod is a colorectal surgeon affiliated with Mt. Sinai Hospital in Toronto, ON. She is Chair of the Governors' Committee on Surgical Practice in Hospitals and has served on that committee since 1999. She is Vice-Chair of the Surgical Research Committee and has also served on the Committee for the Forum on Fundamental Surgical Problems (2000-2002) and the Nominating Committee of the Board of Governors (2000-2002). Dr. McLeod has been a Fellow since 1990 and will serve an initial three-year term as Regent.

Dr. Pellegrini is a general surgeon and The Henry N. Harkins Professor and chairman, department of surgery, University of Washington, Seattle. He has served as President of the Northern California Chapter of the College (1990-1991) and as a member of the Committee on Medical Motion Pictures (1988-1994, Chair 1993-1994). He served as senior member on the International Relations Committee from 1983 to 1993. Dr. Pellegrini has been a Fellow since 1982 and will serve an initial three-year term as Regent.

Re-elected to an additional three-year term on the Board of Regents was Alden



Dr. Mabry

H. Harken, MD, FACS.

The Board of Governors re-elected J. Patrick O'Leary, MD, FACS, to an additional one-year term as Chair of its Executive Committee; Timothy C. Fabian, MD, FACS, to a one-year term as Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee; and Julie A. Freischlag, MD, FACS, to a one-year term as Secretary.

Also elected to the Board of Governors' Executive Committee was Mary Margaret Kemeny, MD, FACS, of Jamaica, NY.

In addition, the following individuals were elected as Governors of the American College of Surgeons:

Governors-at-Large

2002-2005 (unless otherwise noted)

John Burge, Arkansas; Harry Applebaum, California; Stephen Mathes, California; Maria Allo, California; Lawrence Lottenberg, Florida; Abilio Coello, Florida; Harry Sherman, Georgia; Clyde Ishii, Jr., Hawaii (two-year unexpired term); Lynne Jalovec, Illinois; Lester Johnson, Louisiana; Alan Davis, Maryland; Robert Quinlan, Massachusetts; Lee Britton, Michigan; Larry Lloyd, Michigan; Arthur Ney, Minnesota; Michael Bukstein, Missouri; James Alexander, New Jersey; Paul LoVerme, New Jersey; Linda Harris, New York; Peter Campione, New York; Richard MacDowell, New York; Antonio Alfonso, New York; Thomas Gouge,



Dr. McLeod

New York; Dennis Fowler, New York; Michael Nussbaum, Ohio; Karen Deveney, Oregon; Christopher Daly, Pennsylvania; Sally Carty, Pennsylvania; Charles Scagliotti, Pennsylvania; John LaManna, Pennsylvania; Daniel Dempsey, Pennsylvania; Geoffrey Dunn, Pennsylvania; Leonard Hines, Tennessee (two-year unexpired term); Leigh Neumayer, Utah; Martin Wennar, Vermont; Gerald Jordan, Virginia; Terence Quigley, Washington; Paul Fox, Wisconsin; Rex Dunn, Nova Scotia.

International Governors

Joseph DeRoose, Belgium; Erix Bozon Martinez, Columbia; Silvio Pazzetti-Galvan, Guatemala; Peter Wellington, Jamaica; Wihbi Shu'Ayb, Lebanon; Octavio Ruiz, Mexico; Shaikh Babar, Pakistan; Bienvenido Gaddi, Philippines; Adnan Merdad, Saudi Arabia; Cemalettin Topuzlu, Turkey; Brian Rowlands, United Kingdom (one-year unexpired term).

Specialty Governors

Alan Wein, American Association of Genito-Urinary Surgeons; Robert Tucker, American Academy of Ophthalmology; Mark Belsky, American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons; Moritz Ziegler, American Academy of Pediatrics, Surgical Section (two-year unexpired term); Raymond Morgan, American Association of Plastic Surgeons; Valerie Rusch,



Dr. Pellegrini

American Association for Thoracic Surgery; Michael Belkin, American Association for Vascular Surgery; William Hoskins, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; Beth Karlan, American Gynecological and Obstetrical Society; Michael Marohn, U.S. Air Force; Mark Weissler, American Laryngological Association; Richard Wiet, American Otological Society; Michael Zinner, American Surgical Association; Kenneth MacDonald Jr., American Society for Bariatric Surgery; Randolph Bailey, American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons; Richard Reznick, Association for Surgical Education; Terrence Malloy, American Urological Association; Beverly Walters, Congress of Neurological Surgeons; Henry Buchwald, Central Surgical Association; Francis Moore, Jr., New England Surgical Society; Michael Florence, North Pacific Surgical Association; Quan-Yang Duh, Pacific Coast Surgical Association; Gerald Fried, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada; Richard Morawetz, Society of Neurological Surgeons; Howard Snyder III, Society for Pediatric Urology (one-year unexpired term); John McDonald, Southern Surgical Association; Mark Orringer, Society of Thoracic Surgeons; Charles McCollum, Southwestern Surgical Congress; David Terris, The Triological Society; Philip Schneider, Western Surgical Association.

Mark your calendars

- 2003 Spring Meeting, New York, NY, April 12 - 15
- 2003 Clinical Congress, Chicago, IL, October 19 - 23

Registration totals

As of Thursday afternoon, total registration for the Clinical Congress was 15,426; 8,791 were physicians and the rest were exhibitors, guests, spouses, or convention personnel.

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